

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Remarks/Arguments filed on 8/19/2008 regarding claims 10-15, 34-38 have been fully considered. Claims 1-9, 16-33, 39-41 have been cancelled by applicant. Claims 10-15, 34-38 are currently pending.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application relates to providing a method for processing packets in a communications network implementing a TCP/IP protocol, including the unique steps of:

“round robin arbitrating the joining on said receive path of said packets originating from internal and external physical layers; and

forwarding said packets to said internal network layer;

checking whether said packet is supported by a protocol of said internal network layer;

and

based on the result of said checking, processing said packet in a network layer selected from the group consisting of said internal network layer and an external network layer.”

The closest prior art, Boucher et al. (US Publication 2004/0003126 A1), discloses a intelligent network interface card that accelerates data transfer and offloads time-intensive processing tasks from the CPU by providing a fast path that avoids protocol processing for most messages and yet still provides slow path processing for other messages. However, Boucher

Art Unit: 2416

fails to anticipate or render obvious the above quoted limitations of the present application. This renders the claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2416
10/10/08

Kevin Mew /K. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2416